REMARKS

This merely makes formal corrections.

Respectfully submitted,

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enc: Appendix

APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

6. (Twice amended) A process for producing a maraging steel comprising the steps of[;

melting a steel having:

a chemical composition consisting essentially of, in % by weight:

C: 0.01% or less,

Ni: 8-19%,

Co: 8-20%,

Mo: 2-9%,

Ti: 0.1-2%,

A1: 0.15% or less,

N: 0.003% or less,

O: 0.0015% or less,

and the balance Fe; and

a nonmetallic inclusion having a size of 30 μm or less when the size of the nonmetallic inclusion is expressed by the diameter of a corresponding circle taking the circumferential length of the

nonmetallic inclusion to be the circumference of the corresponding circle] the chemical composition as described in claim 3;

casting the molten steel to obtain a steel ingot of a taper Tp = (D1 - D2) x 100/H of 5.0-25.0%, a height-diameter ratio Rh = H/D of 1.0-3.0, and a flatness ratio B = W1/W2 of 1.5 or less, taking the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the top of the steel ingot as D1, the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the bottom of the steel ingot as D2, the height of the steel ingot as H, the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the steel ingot at a location of H/2 as D, and the length of the long side and length of the short side of the steel ingot at a location of H/2 as W1 and W2, respectively;

forging the steel ingot at a forging ratio of at least 4 for a forged piece;

then submitting to soaking treatment by keeping the forged piece one or more times in a temperature range of 1100-1280°C for a total hot holding time of 10-100 hours; and

then plastic working the forged piece to make the size of a nonmetallic inclusion in the steel be 30 μm or less when the size of the nonmetallic inclusion is expressed by the diameter of a corresponding circle taking the circumferential length of the nonmetallic inclusion to be the circumference of the corresponding circle.